

ETS AND COMPROMISED ADULTS

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COMPROMISED ADULTS

The literature on environmental tobacco smoke includes a body of research on asthmatic adults. Studies have been conducted in order to attempt to determine whether there is a relationship between passive exposure to ETS and the development of asthma or the exacerbation of existing asthma in adults. The studies are varied in their results, and accordingly, no definitive conclusions have been reached by investigators. Following are the studies that examine ETS and its possible relation to asthma in adults.

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COMMENTS ON SELECTED STUDIES: ETS AND COMPROMISED ADULTS

Stahle, et al., 1978

The authors suggest that tobacco smoke exposure might trigger asthma attacks by means of an allergic reaction.

Shephard, et al., 1979

Reported that asthmatic subjects did not appear to have an unusual sensitivity to tobacco smoke exposure.

Dahms, et al., 1981

Five of the ten subjects specifically reported sensitivity to tobacco smoke before their inclusion in this study.

Ing, et al., 1983

This study investigated only six subjects.

Romer, et al., 1983

The authors concede that the small subject population of this study indicates that the results must be taken with caution.

Knight, et al., 1985

Only six subjects were studied.

Wiedemann, et al., 1986

The authors report that passive smoking presents no acute respiratory risk to young asymptomatic asthmatic patients.

Stankus, et al., 1988

Only 21 subjects were included and all had complained of respiratory symptoms upon previous exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

Bailey, et al., 1990

No relationship was observed between passive smoking and pulmonary function of asthmatic subjects.

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